

## **4/27/11: Local 810 Public Testimony before Philadelphia City Council**

**My name is Louise Carpino and I represent the members of AFSCME, Local 810. Our members work for the First Judicial District in the City of Philadelphia as professional employees. Our bargaining unit is comprised of Adult and Juvenile Probation/Parole Officers, Pre-Trial Court Officers, Domestic Relations Hearing Officers, Court Administrative Officers, Programmer Analysts, Systems Analysts, Intake Interviewers, Accountants, Social Workers, and Clerical Assistants/ Para-Professionals in the Pre-Trial Division.**

**Our members are on the front lines, every day, doing work for the citizens of Philadelphia. Some of this work includes: supervision of adult and juvenile offenders with mental health problems, drug/alcohol problems, educational deficiencies, housing problems, financial problems, employment problems, contagious/life threatening health problems, etc. Our members also perform close supervision of sexual offenders; intense supervision of high risk offenders and offenders sentenced in Philadelphia Gun Court; supervision of YVRP (Youth Violence Reduction Project) offenders that have been determined to be the most likely to kill or be killed. Additionally they are responsible for the enforcement of all probation/parole court orders; for protecting public safety; for protecting victims; for making bail determinations for juvenile offenders; for making support determinations for dependent children in the City; for determining eligibility for Public Defender services; for supervising pre-trial and post –trial offenders on electronic monitoring; for supervising pre-trial offenders on conditional release; for acting as a liaison to prisons for support enforcement; for receiving and recording financial obligations from offenders; and for designing, implementing, and running computer applications for the Courts. This list is not all inclusive.**

**Yesterday, the FJD testified during their budget hearing before City Council that for every \$1 investment the City makes in Court services, there is a \$4 return on that investment for the City.**

**These are services that our members provide daily. These valuable services have never been fully understood nor utilized, resulting in our veteran officers being paid sub-standard wages in comparison to other counties in Pennsylvania and in comparison to comparable agencies in the City. This has caused a shortage of veteran officers because of the high turnover. Our officers quit the FJD to go to Probation/Parole in New Jersey, Probation/Parole in Philadelphia's surrounding counties, PA State Parole, Federal Probation, the Mayor's Office of Reentry, the Philadelphia Inspector General's Office, and various Police Departments. This list is not all inclusive.**

**We need the City to invest in our dedicated employees that are making money for the City while they work. Every Philadelphia resident who is rehabilitated through our members' work saves prison costs, generates tax revenues when working, and can be reunited with their families, thereby helping to restore stability and cohesiveness in all of our communities.**

**Please make a decision to promote healthy and safe communities in our city by investing in us.**